



Realize your potential.



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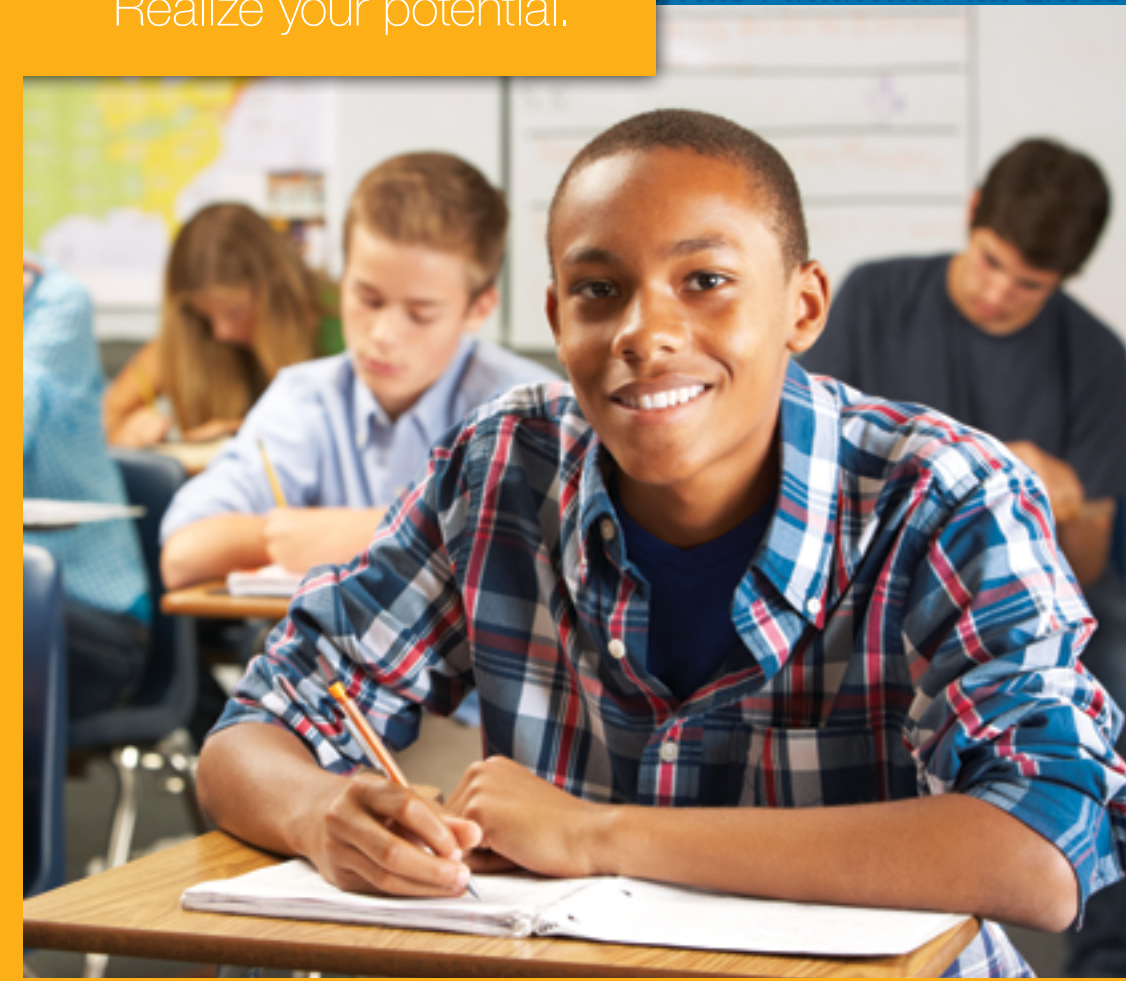
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TREES	WATER	ENERGY	SOLID WASTE	GREENHOUSE GASES
8.6 fully grown	4,039 gallons	3.9 million BTU	270 pounds	2,660 pounds of CO ₂

Calculations based on research by Environmental Defense and other members of the Paper Task Force



It's Never Too Early To Plan for College

Where will your journey lead you?

Going to college is more important than ever before. Although you won't apply to college until your senior year, there are many things you can do to be ready when the time comes. So, when should you start planning for college? The answer is...now.

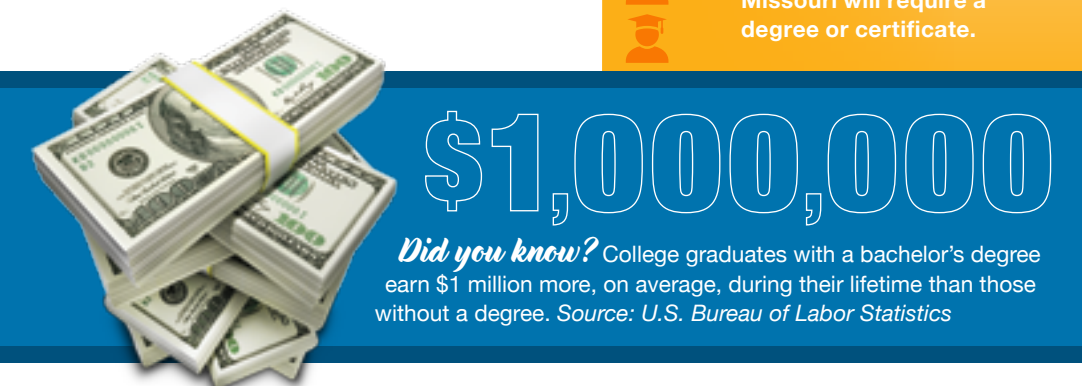
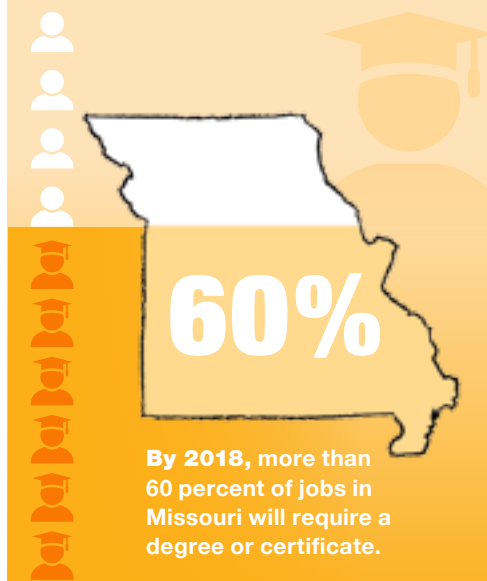
Make a plan

Why consider college?

A majority of jobs today require some education beyond high school. College can open the door to more job opportunities and higher pay.

What counts as college?

College includes professional certificates and degrees that are earned at technical schools, two-year community colleges, four-year universities, or through online degree programs. It all counts as college!



Establish good habits

Choices you make in middle school and junior high can help you succeed in high school and prepare for college. It's important to adopt good habits early on.



Discover your interests

Enroll in classes and participate in community activities to help you decide what you like to do most. Once you know what your interests are, you can explore careers that match up with those interests.

Ask yourself questions, such as:

- Do you like helping people?
- Do you like working with your hands or designing new things?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- What classes have you found especially interesting or inspiring?

Look for summer camps that relate to things you like to do. Try job shadowing or interviewing people who have jobs that you find interesting.

Make the grade

Being the best student you can be will help you get into college and succeed once you're there. Take school seriously and learn as much as you can. Low grades will negatively affect your grade point average, which could impact your scholarship eligibility. Working hard now will pay off in the end.



Important! The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requires 3 units of math to graduate high school; however, the Department of Higher Education and most Missouri colleges recommend 4 units of math to better prepare you for college. Two units of a single foreign language are strongly recommended if you are planning to attend college.

Complete these classes in high school:

- 4 units communication arts
- 3 units social studies
- 4 units math
- 3 units science
- 1 unit fine arts
- 1 unit physical education
- 1/2 unit health education
- 1/2 unit personal finance
- 7 units electives

Make the most of school

- 1 Complete all classwork on time.
- 2 Get involved in activities and organizations.
- 3 Practice good citizenship.
- 4 Never give up! Ask for help when you need it.



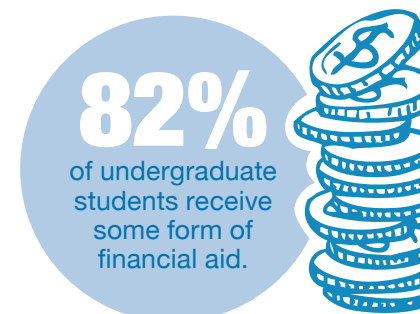
Parents

Think about college...now

It's never too early to start thinking about college. Talk with your children about their hopes and dreams. Help them develop their interests and skills through school work, activities and hobbies. Once they reach their final year in high school they will be ready to make some important decisions about the kind of education they need to achieve their goals.

and certificate programs come in all prices, depending on the type of school students choose and the financial aid they receive.

Missouri has many affordable higher education options. The cost to attend college at a number of Missouri schools can be found at dhe.mo.gov/data/tuitionandfees.php.



The benefits of college

By 2018, more than 60 percent of jobs in Missouri will require a degree or certificate. While not every career requires a college degree, higher education can pave the way for more employment opportunities and more options for the future.

Paying for college

College can be expensive, but higher education doesn't have to be out of reach due to cost. Degree

Federal and state grants, scholarships, work-study, and loans are available to a majority of students to help pay for college. About 82

percent of undergraduate students receive some form of financial aid. Visit FAFSA4caster.ed.gov today to get an estimate of the amount of federal aid your child could receive.

The U.S. Department of Education and the state of Missouri offer millions of dollars in financial aid to students each year.

Saving for college

Start saving for college as early as possible. You can watch your savings grow while your children grow. Money saved through MOST 529 — a state-sponsored, college savings plan that offers tax advantages — can be used for college tuition, certain housing expenses, books, supplies and other qualifying higher education expenses. Find out more at Missourimost.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
dhe.mo.gov

Some advice from Missouri college students:

Q: How did you prepare for college?

Danielle: I took college-level courses throughout my junior and senior year of high school and improved my study habits.



Q: What should students know about college?

Brian: College is not out of reach, and it is important. Do research about schools and tuition costs, apply for scholarships and go on campus visits.



Q: Why did you go to college?

Kiona: Education allows you to grow as a person, attain goals, and accomplish your dreams.

